

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

1. (Currently Amended) A hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet comprising from 3 to 20 % by mass of fibrillated rayon comprising primary larger non-micro fibers and smaller microfibers extending ~~therefrom~~ from the larger non-micro fibers, and a balance being non-fibrillated rayon and pulp having a length of at most 10 mm,
wherein primary larger non-micro fibers have a length in a range of from 2.5 to 6.5 mm at a peak of mass distribution thereof, smaller microfibers having a length of at most 1 mm account for from 0.1 to 50% by mass of a self-weight of the fibrillated rayon, ~~and the microfibers are hydroentangled with each other or with other fibers~~, and wherein
a surface friction resistance of the fibrous sheet when dry, measured according to an abrasion resistance test method of JIS P-8136, is at least three rubbing cycles.
2. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, of which the surface friction resistance of the fibrous sheet ~~in~~ when wet is at least three rubbing cycles.
3. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, of which the surface is pressed under heat so that the smaller microfibers of the fibrillated rayon in the surface are hydrogen-bonded to at least either of other microfibers and other fibers therein.
4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fibrous sheet has a multi-layered structure including a layer not containing the fibrillated rayon.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the degree of fineness of the fibrillated rayon is in a range ~~falls~~ between 1.1 and 1.9 dtex.
9. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, wherein the weight of the fibers is in range ~~falls~~ between 20 and 100 g/m².
10. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, of which the decomposability in water, measured according to JIS P-4501, is at most 200 seconds.
11. (Original) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, of which the wet strength is at least 1.1 N/25 mm.
12. (Currently Amended) The hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 1, of which the dry strength is at least 3.4 N/25 mm.
13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a hydroentangled water-decomposable ~~fibrous sheet~~, comprising:
 - (A) a step of sheeting fibers into a fibrous web, in which the fibers contain fibrillated rayon that comprises larger non-mircofibers ~~primary fibers~~ having a predetermined fiber length and smaller microfibers extending from the larger non-microfibers ~~primary fibers~~ and has a

degree of beating of at most 700 cc, and

(B) a step of pressing the fibrous web ~~wet~~ under heat while the surface of the fibrous web is wetted with water, whereby the smaller microfibers existing in the surface are hydrogen-bonded to at least either of other microfibers and other fibers therein.

14. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a the hydroentangled water-decomposable fibrous sheet as claimed in claim 13, which includes a step (C) of processing the fibrous web through water-jetting treatment between the step (A) and the step (B).